CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.    A method for saving and restoring printer control settings, comprising:

selecting control settings for a printer using a control panel of said printer;

executing a printer control program for determining said selected control settings for said

   printer; and

saving said selected control settings to a media storage device.


2.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:

invoking a firmware update on said printer;

updating said firmware;

executing said printer control program for restoring said selected control settings;

downloading said saved selected control settings from said media storage device; and

updating said selected control settings to said printer.


3.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using said control panel for selecting at least one additional printer to transfer said saved

   selected control settings to; and

updating control settings of said at least one additional printer with said saved selected

   control settings.


4.    A method for saving and restoring printer control settings, comprising:

executing a printer control program for creating and saving printer control settings;

using said printer control program to select at least one printer associated with said printer

   control program;

retrieving available control settings for said at least one selected printer;

displaying said retrieved available control settings for selection by a user;

selecting desired control settings from said retrieved available control settings;

saving said selected desired control settings; and

updating said at least one selected printer with said desired control settings.

15

5.     The method of claim 4, wherein executing a printer control program for creating and saving printer control settings comprises executing said printer control program using a computer.

6.     The method of claim 4, wherein using said printer control program to select at least one printer associated with said printer control program comprises selecting a group of printers.

7.     The method of claim 4, wherein retrieving available control settings for said at least one selected printer comprises retrieving said available control settings from said at least one selected printer.

8.     The method of claim 4, wherein retrieving available control settings for said at least one selected printer comprises retrieving said available control settings from a database storing said available control settings.

9.     The method of claim 4, wherein displaying said retrieved available control settings for selection by a user comprises displaying said retrieved available control settings on a display device in a graphical user interface format.

10.     The method of claim 4, wherein updating said at least one selected printer with said desired control settings comprises updating control settings of said at least one selected printer on a predefined schedule.

11     The method of claim 4, wherein updating said at least one selected printer with said desired control settings comprises automatically updating control settings of said at least one selected printer following a firmware upgrade of said at least one selected printer.

12.     A document production system for setting and maintaining printer control settings, comprising:

at least one printer for printing documents conforming to stored control settings stored in a memory of said at least one printer; and

a printer control program for retrieving control settings from said at least one printer, saving control settings, downloading control settings, and updating control settings in said memory of said at least one printer.

13.     The document production system of claim 12, wherein said printer control program is resident in said memory of said at least one printer.

14.     The document production system of claim 12, further comprising a storage media for receiving control settings from said printer control program for saving.

15.     The document production system of claim 12, further comprising a storage media for providing said printer control program with control settings to download.

16.     The document production system of claim 12, wherein said printer control program further comprises a function for automatically updating control settings of said at least one printer following firmware updates of said at least one printer.

17.     The document production system of claim 12, further comprising a computer for executing said printer control program.

17

18. The document production system of claim 17, wherein said computer comprises:

a central processing unit for executing said printer control program;

a storage media for storing said printer control program;

a display device for displaying control settings retrieved from said at least one printer;

an input device for selecting desired control settings retrieved from said at least one

printer; and

a communication link for communicating with said at least one printer.

19. The document production system of claim 17, wherein said printer control program further comprises a function for manipulating control settings of said at least one printer.

20. The document production system of claim 17, wherein said printer control program further comprises a function for automatically updating control settings of said at least one printer following firmware updates of said at least one printer.